SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM: The Hon. Minister has stated that only 15 banks have been started. But to my knowledge, there are at least two banks which have been started in the district of North Arcot, one at Tiruvannamalai and another at Arcot. May I know why these two banks have not been included in the statement laid on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The date of the answer furnished is 5th August 1955. It may be that after that date, some more banks might have been started.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: The Hon. Minister has stated that 15 Rural Co-operative Banks have started work out of the 23 banks permitted to be registered. But I understand from very reliable sources that opening of two banks, one in the south and another in the north of Malabar, has been sanctioned but no steps have so far been taken to start them. May I know why there has been so much delay in the matter and will the Government take immediate action to see that these two banks are started in Malabar?

11-50 a.m. THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY: The Deputy Registrar, Malabar South, has organized a rural bank at Mannur and he has promised to submit his proposals for the registration of the bank after consulting the Malabar Co-operative Bank, Limited, Kozhikode. As regards North Malabar, the Deputy Registrar has reported that apart from conversion of Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies into rural co-operative banks, there is no possibility of organizing an independent rural co-operative bank.

Siruvani River Reservoir Scheme

* 2496 *Q.*—SRI P. S. RANGASWAMI NAIDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the public of Palladam taluk, Coimbatore district, to divert the waters of the Siruvani river into the Noyyal river for agricultural purposes;

(*b*) whether the District Planning Board has recommended the scheme; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI: (*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The matter is under consideration.

* 2497 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether Siruvani Reservoir has been surveyed by the Engineers during 1955 with a view to let in more water from the rivers that go beyond Western Ghats?